GDP Growth rates

*86. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government have taken note of views expressed by eminent international economists at the recently held meeting of World Economic Forum in New Delhi predicting stagnation of India's GDP at 5.5 to 6.0 per cent in view of its sagging industrial growth;

(b) whether such views suggest that India needs to invest, on a priority basis, in its people, their health and primary education to sustain a high growth rate; and

(c) what steps Government have been taking to check the inflation still hovering around double-digits, creating socio-political problems and whether Government realises that its GDP growth rate of 5.5 per cent still compares unfavourably with the GDP growth rates in other developing countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) In the presentation entitled India; Seizing the Moment-What next in the reform process? made by Mr. Claude Smadja Senior Adviser for Asia of the World Economic Forum there were some observations regarding India's growth. As per this presentation, Indian economy is expected to grow from 5.5 per cent during the current year to around 6 per cent in the next few years. In addition, it makes a suggestion for investment in rural infrastructure and social sectors like health, primary and technical education to sustain and provide momentum to the growth process.

(c) Over the last decade or so India's growth rate has been higher than a majority of low income economies. There are, however, some countries like China and Indonesia which have had higher growth during this period. Between September, 1994 and November, 1994 the inflation rate has ranged between 8.3 per cen and 9.7 per cent after reaching a peak of 12 per cent in late April 1994. A number of supply-demand side measure have been taken to check inflation.

Capacity Utilisation in Telecom Sector

*87. SHRI V. RAJAN CHELLAPPA :Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment of the capacity utilisation in the telecom sector ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the details of installed and utilised capacity ; and

(d) the steps contemplated to increase the capacity utilisation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM) : (a) yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Year wise status of telephone capacity, working lines and percentage of capacity utilisation in the country for the year 91-92, 92-93 and 93-94 is as under :—

Item	1991-92	1992-93	1993-94
Installed capacity	6783936	7968310	9795174
Working Lines	5809929	6796748	8025586
Utilisation	85.6	85.3	81.9

(d) Department of Telecom have issued guidelines for the optimum utilisation of telephone exchange capacity. As per the instructions for large exchanges 60% of the rated subscriber connectable capacity should be utilised on the day of commissioning of the exchange. Further utilisation to 92% of the exchange capacity should be achieved within six months of the commissioning of the exchange.

Income Tax paid by Nationalised Banks

*88. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI :
SHRI GAYA SINGH :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether nationalised banks are up-to-date in paying income tax ;

(b) if so, the details of income assessed, tax demanded and tax paid by each of the 20 Nationalised Banks, Associate Banks and SBI during the preceding three financial years ; and

(c) the reasons for defaults, if any, and the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Detailed information has been furnished in the annexure [*see* Appendix 172, annexure No. 21].

(c) In many cases the assessed demand may be under litigation. However, Commissioners of Income Tax have been asked by the Board to collect undisputed arrears of tax.

मध्य प्रदेश में पुराने टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों का आधुनिकीकरण

*89. **श्री अजीत जोगी :** क्या संचार मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) मध्य प्रदेश के कितने पुराने टेलीफोन एक्सचेंजों के पुनर्स्थापन और आधुनिकीकरण की आवश्यकता है,

(ख) जून 1991 से आज तक की अवधि के दौरान कितने इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंजों को चालू किया गया है; और

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान कितने गांवों में टेलीफोन की सुविधा उपलब्ध कराई गई है ?

संचार मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखराम) : (क) मध्य प्रदेश में ऐसे 25 पुराने टेलीफोन एक्सचेंज हैं जिनकी पुनर्संरचना और आधुनिकीकरण करने की जरूरत है।

(ख) जुलाई 1991 से अब तक 1858 इलेक्ट्रानिक एक्सचेंज चालू किये जा चुके हैं।

(ग) उक्त अवधि के दौरान 16,255 गांवों को टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान की जा चुकी है।

Income Tax Notice to Banks

*90. DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA:
SHRI ASHOK MITRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Apex Bank has taken notice of the Income Tax Department's notices to banks involved in 1992 Security Scam for supply of details of recoveries made of certain amounts not reflected in the income of the banks concerned ; and